



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING CAMPAIGN

In his State of the Nation Address, presented to the joint sitting of Parliament in Cape Town on 3 June 2009, the President of the Republic of South Africa, Mr JG Zuma, stated that: *“Education will be a key priority for the next five years. We want our teachers, learners and parents to work together with government to turn our schools into thriving centres of excellence”*.

The President further stated: *“We reiterate our non-negotiables. Teachers should be in school and in class, on time, teaching, with no neglect of duty and no abuse of pupils! The children should be in class, on time, learning, be respectful of their teachers and each other, and do their homework”*.

On Friday, 11 August 2008, Government launched a health and education campaign at Walter Sisulu Square in Kliptown. This campaign arises from the recognition that health and education should be at the centre of Government’s social transformation programme for the next five years.

On the education front, the campaign calls on all individuals and organisations to assume responsibility for improving the quality of education. The education elements of the campaign will:

- inform citizens about the importance of education and their roles, responsibilities and obligations towards education;
- mobilise communities to monitor and support schools, teachers and learners;
- improve the quality of education for all children, especially the poor, and to demonstrate this improved quality via improved learner achievement.

The achievement of quality education for all depends on the actions of members of Parliament, the Basic Education Ministry, provincial members of executive councils, departmental officials, school principals, teachers, learners, parents, school governors and members of the community.

Each of these role-players are called upon to make a commitment to a “Code for Quality Education”, which describes the responsibilities and discipline required of them. If all sections of society work together – government, communities, health-care workers, civil society, business, the media and other sectors – we can ensure that all learners benefit from quality education. Campaign coordinating structures are being established at national, provincial, regional, local and school level and Government now calls on all South Africans to join us in this campaign as part of an ongoing effort to achieve a better life for all.

Extract from the Kliptown Pledges

CODE FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

The power to improve education lies with all of us. We call on all departmental officials, teachers, students, parents and community members to make a commitment to a “**Code for Quality Education**”.

As a DEPARTMENTAL OFFICIAL, I promise to:

- ensure that all schools receive the necessary resources, on time, for teaching to commence;
- ensure that all schools have their full staff allocation and that any vacancies are filled without delay;
- improve my own knowledge and skills base to be more effective;
- always be available to assist schools, principals and teachers;
- respond to requests or concerns of education stakeholders;
- visit all schools within the district on a regular basis;
- monitor teacher and student attendance and ensure no child stays out of school; and
- to assist all schools to improve their performance, ensuring that regular tests are conducted and results are reported to parents.

As a SCHOOL GOVERNOR, I promise to:

- promote the best interests of the school and strive to ensure its development;

- strive to ensure the provision of quality education for all learners at the school;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that stakeholders at the school are involved in the activities of the school;
- take all reasonable steps to ensure that the school funds and assets are administered in accordance with good business practice;
- support the principal, educators and other staff members of the school in performing their professional functions;
- conduct myself in accordance with the obligation placed on me to stand in a position of trust towards the school and my fellow governors; and
- to act in the best interest of the school at all times.

As a PRINCIPAL, I promise to:

- promote the development of loyalty and respect for the profession by fulfilling my management and leadership roles to the best of my ability;
- be punctual, well prepared for, and enthusiastic about my roles as professional leader;
- strive to be a lifelong learner;
- encourage and support my staff in their professional development endeavours;
- actively work to eliminate unprofessional behaviour, such as inappropriate teacher-learner relationships and drunkenness;
- ensure that all relevant circulars, documents and information are shared with relevant stakeholders as soon as possible;
- take the required steps to ensure that the PED/District receives all the required information necessary for the timely delivery of resources for learning and teaching;
- ensure that the PED/District receives all the necessary information to facilitate the prompt filling of vacant posts;
- monitor teacher attendance;
- monitor learner attendance and strive to ensure that no child stays out of school unnecessarily;
- provide information to parents on their children's progress on a regular basis;
- ensure that the QLTC at my school is implemented to the best of my ability, and to ensure that the significance of the campaign is understood by all role-players but particularly by parents and the local community; and
- to support the SGB in the performance of its duties.

As a TEACHER, in line with the SACE Code of Professional Ethics, I promise to:

- teach, to advance the education and the development of learners as individuals;
- respect the dignity and rights of all persons without prejudice;
- develop loyalty to, and respect for the profession;
- be punctual, enthusiastic, well prepared for lessons and of sober mind and body;
- improve my own knowledge and skills base to be more effective;
- maintain good communication between teachers and learners; among teachers themselves; and between teachers and parents;
- provide information to parents on their children's progress on a regular basis;
- eliminate unprofessional behaviour, such as teacher-pupil relationships, drunkenness, the use of drugs, assault, sexual harassment and other infringements; and
- to make myself available for extra-mural activities.

As a LEARNER, I promise to:

- accept that the main reason for being in school is to learn and develop academically, socially and culturally;
- adhere to school rules;
- respect the legitimacy and authority of teachers;
- participate in Learner Representative Councils (LRCs) to safeguard my interests;
- show respect to other learners and not to discriminate; and
- to avoid anti-social behaviour like theft, vandalism, assault, sexual harassment, alcohol and drug abuse, as well as other activities that disrupt the learning process.

As a PARENT, I promise to:

- involve myself actively in the activities of the school, including school governance structures;
- have regular discussions with my children about general school matters;
- cultivate a healthy, open and cooperative relationship with my children's teachers;
- create a home environment that is conducive to studying;
- assist in the protection of educational resources such as textbooks, chairs, tables and other objects; and
- to contribute, within my means, the necessary resources to the schooling of my children.

As a COMMUNITY, we promise to:

- ensure that every school-going child is at school;
- ensure a safe and crime-free environment for schooling and to protect the school and its assets from vandalism; and
- to monitor the performance of schools, and report any problems to the relevant authorities.

We pledge to undertake these responsibilities to ensure quality education for all.

The Department of Basic Education, together with teacher unions, school governing bodies and learners is committed to do everything within its power to abide by the pledges and to pursue quality learning and teaching for all.

PHAMBILI QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING PHAMBILI !